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THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!



SONIC

TM

THE HEDGEHOG

QUANTUM
LEAP



SEGA

DIRECT EDITION



SPALARO
JDRAW '01

A large illustration of Sonic Prime floating in space. He is wearing his signature blue suit and has a green visor. He is surrounded by colorful nebulae and stars. A speech bubble is at the top left.

WELCOME TO A BUSY
INTERSECTION ALONG THE
COSMIC INTERSTATE. I AM ZONIC,
THE ZONE COP. I COME FROM A
PERPENDICULAR ZONE WHICH
PASSES THROUGH EVERY OTHER
PARALLEL DIMENSION.

A large illustration of Sonic Prime floating in space. He is wearing his signature blue suit and has a green visor. He is surrounded by colorful nebulae and stars. A speech bubble is at the bottom left.

IT IS MY SWORN
DUTY TO PATROL AND
OBSERVE THE VARIANT
INCARNATIONS
OF A SPECIAL SPINY
SOMEONE.

An inset comic panel showing a close-up of Sonic Prime's face. He has a green visor and a blue helmet. A speech bubble is at the top right.

MY PRIMARY FOCUS IS HISTORY'S
MOST PIVOTAL HERO, SONIC PRIME,
THE TRUE BLUE HEDGEHOG OF
ALL REALITIES.

A large illustration of Sonic Prime floating in space. He is wearing his signature blue suit and has a green visor. He is surrounded by colorful nebulae and stars. A speech bubble is at the bottom right.

BUT THERE
ARE COUNTLESS
VERSIONS OF SONIC
IN ALTERNATE
DIMENSIONS... SUCH
AS THE ONE I'M
ABOUT TO VISIT
WITH YOU—

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BOOM

WE HAVE TRAVELED
A FULL MILLENNIUM FORWARD
IN TIME TO A DIVERGENT
FUTURE. IT IS THE YEAR 4235
AND THIS IS MOBIUS, OR
RATHER, WHAT REMAINS OF IT
ONE THOUSAND YEARS AFTER
"THE WAR OF THE WORLD" ALMOST
OBLITERATED IT.

MOBIUS IS
STILL A RAVAGED
HUSK, BARELY CAPABLE
OF SUSTAINING LIFE
IN CERTAIN ISOLATED
AREAS. HARDLY A
PLACE ANYONE WOULD
CHOOSE TO VISIT
AND YET...

CH-

WOK!

NO METEOR CAUSES A
SONIC BOOM LIKE THAT!
I'LL BET THAT WAS SOME KIND
OF INCOMING SPACECRAFT!
I'LL CHECK IT OUT...



I WAS RIGHT
--A STRANGER'S
CAME TO TOWN...
MY TOWN!



I...I'VE
LANDED! BUT
CAN THIS TRULY
BE...HOME?



WHOA! GOT
TO GET MY LAND
LEGS. I'M GLAD MY
CONFINEMENT
SUIT COMPENSATES
FOR THIS ACRID
ATMOSPHERE...



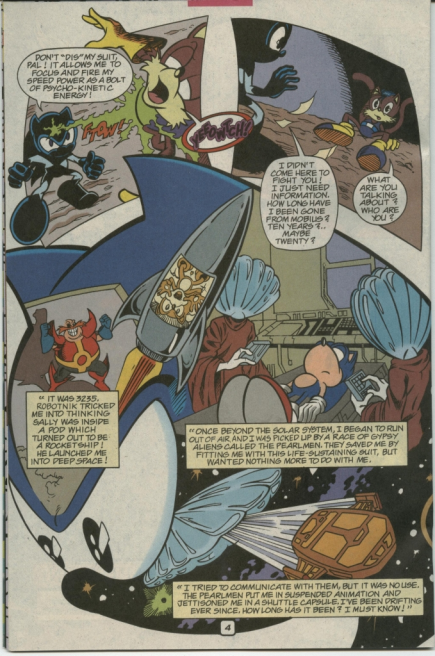
YOU DON'T
SMELL SO GOOD
YOURSELF, INTRUDER!
HOW LONG SINCE YOU
WASHED THOSE NASTY
THREADS?



FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF THE GALAXY

PART ONE, CHAPTER ONE

MICHAEL GALLAGHER-WRITER JIM VALENTINO-PENCILLER
HARVO-INKER WICKIE WILLIAMS-LETTERER STEPHANIE VOZZO-COLORIST
JUSTIN GABRIE-EDITOR/ART DIRECTOR VICTOR GORELICK-MANAGING EDITOR
RICHARD GOLDWATER-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



DON'T "DIS" MY SUIT, PAL! IT ALLOWS ME TO FOCUS AND FIRE MY SPEED POWER AS A BOLT OF PSYCHO-KINETIC ENERGY!

RAW!

YEOWCH!

I DIDN'T COME HERE TO FIGHT YOU! I JUST NEED INFORMATION. HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN GONE FROM MOBIUS? TEN YEARS?... MAYBE TWENTY?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHO ARE YOU?

"IT WAS 3235. ROBOTNIK TRICKED ME INTO THINKING SALLY WAS INSIDE A POD WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE A ROCKETSHIP! HE LAUNCHED ME INTO DEEP SPACE!

"ONCE BEYOND THE SOLAR SYSTEM, I BEGAN TO RUN OUT OF AIR AND I WAS PICKED UP BY A RACE OF GYPSY ALIENS CALLED THE PEARLMEN. THEY SAVED ME BY FITTING ME WITH THIS LIFE-SUSTAINING SUIT, BUT WANTED NOTHING MORE TO DO WITH ME.

"I TRIED TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEM, BUT IT WAS NO USE. THE PEARLMEN PUT ME IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION AND JETTISONED ME IN A SHUTTLE CAPSULE. I'VE BEEN DRIFTING EVER SINCE. HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN? I MUST KNOW!"

YOU ASKED FOR IT, MAN...
YOU'VE BEEN AWAY FOR
A THOUSAND YEARS!



GASP!
W-WUH-
WHAT?!



"EASY, PAL! YOU'RE LUCKY I
SPEND SOME TIME AT THE OLD
DOO-CHIP LIBRARY! I KNOW A
LITTLE ANCIENT HISTORY.
DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY "3235"?
THAT'S THE YEAR--what's his
name--IVOTNIK? HE BEGAN
THE WAR OF THE WORLD!"

"I'M NOT SURE OF THE DETAILS
...THEY SAY THE GOOD GUYS LOST
THEIR CHAMPION SOMEHOW, BUT
IN THE END, THE FAT MAN SANG.
THIS PLANET WAS TOASTED AND
ABANDONED."



"ONLY A FEW LIFEFORMS REMAINED ALIVE ON MOBILUS.
THE TOUGHEST MANAGED TO ADAPT AND SURVIVE OVER
THE CENTURIES...LIKE MY INHUMANT ANCESTORS.
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE...CALL ME TAILON!"



NICE TO MEET YOU...
I'M SONIC THE 3 ULP! 3
THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD
HEPDEHOG! IS ANYONE
ELSE AROUND?

JUST THE LOCAL BRASS
KNUCKLES, BUT THEY'RE
NOT VERY NICE!

THE WHO--
WHOA!

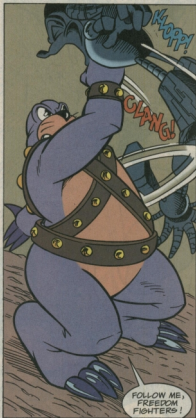
IT'S JUST A SMALL
GANG OF THEM, THERE'S
THOUSANDS OF RENEGADE
ROBOTS LIKE THESE ALL
OVER THE CITY!

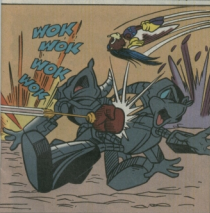
TELL YOU
WHAT-- SET ME
DOWN OVER THERE
AND WE'LL TAKE
'EM DOWN!

IT'S BEEN A
THOUSAND YEARS
SINCE I RUMBLED!
I'M *ITCHIN'* TO
GO!

LET'S
DO IT!







End of Chapter 1

SO, WHEN A SOLAR SYSTEM SCAN REVEALED YOUR SPACE CAPSULE'S ENERGY TRAIL, WE FOLLOWED IT TO THIS LANDING SITE HERE ON MOBIUS.

AH DIDN'T THINK WE'D FIND A BOLL WEEVIL ALIVE ON THIS SCORCHED MARBLE, LET ALONE A FULL-GROWN FOX!

YOU GOTTA TELL ME HOW YOU GET YOUR HAIR TO DO THAT, SCARLETT O'HARE!

I THINK A QUICK HISTORY LESSON ABOUT OUR TEAM IS IN ORDER!

FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF THE GALAXY

PART ONE, CHAPTER TWO

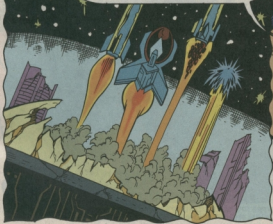
THE WAR OF THE WORLD ENDED BADLY FOR EVERYONE...EVEN IVO ROBOTNIK. AFTER DESTROYING ALMOST EVERY LIVING THING, HIS MECHANIZED WORLD IMPLoded, TAKING HIM WITH IT. THE BOTTOM LINE WAS : MOBIUS WAS UNINHABITABLE.

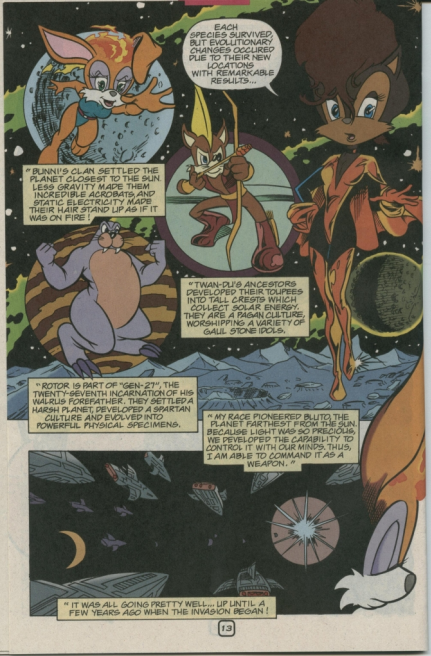
PON!
ROBOTNIK!
THAT WAS IT--NOT
"IVOTNIK!"

MIRACULOUSLY, FOUR OF ZEE ORIGINAL KNOTHOLE FREEDOM FIGHTERS LIVED THROUGH ZEE FINAL FIRESTORM AND MANAGED TO DRAG THEMSELVES BACK TO ZEE SMOKING RUINS OF ROBOTROPOLIS, SEEKING A WAY OFF ZEE PLANET.



LOCATING UNDAMAGED SINGLE-PASSENGER SPACECRAFT IN ROBOTNIK'S ESCAPE TOWER, THEY LAUNCHED THEMSELVES TO INDIVIDUAL SURROUNDING PLANETS, OUR ANCESTORS VOWED TO ADAPT, POPULATE AND EVOLVE ANEW OR DIE TRYING.





EACH SPECIES SURVIVED, BUT EVOLUTIONARY CHANGES OCCURRED DUE TO THEIR NEW LOCATIONS WITH REMARKABLE RESULTS...

"BUNNI'S CLAN SETTLED THE PLANET CLOSEST TO THE SUN. LESS GRAVITY MADE THEM INCREDIBLE ACROBATS, AND STATIC ELECTRICITY MADE THEIR HAIR STAND UP AS IF IT WAS ON FIRE!

"TWAN-DI'S ANCESTORS DEVELOPED THEIR TOLUPEES INTO TALL CRESTS WHICH COLLECT SOLAR ENERGY. THEY ARE A PAGAN CULTURE, WORSHIPPING A VARIETY OF GAIL STONE IDOLS.

"ROTOR IS PART OF 'GEN-27', THE TWENTY-SEVENTH INCARNATION OF HIS WALRUS FOREFATHER. THEY SETTLED A HARSH PLANET, DEVELOPED A SPARTAN CULTURE AND EVOLVED INTO POWERFUL PHYSICAL SPECIMENS.

"MY RACE PIONEERED BLUTO, THE PLANET FARTHEST FROM THE SUN. BECAUSE LIGHT WAS SO PRECIOUS, WE DEVELOPED THE CAPABILITY TO CONTROL IT WITH OUR MINDS. THUS, I AM ABLE TO COMMAND IT AS A WEAPON."

"IT WAS ALL GOING PRETTY WELL... UP UNTIL A FEW YEARS AGO WHEN THE INVASION BEGAN!



"IN THE MOST OUTRAGEOUS MILITARY MOVE SINCE SHERMAN'S MARCH TO THE SEA, OUR SOLAR SYSTEM WAS OVERRUN BY A MERCILESS RACE OF FISH-LIKE CREATURES CALLED THE SHARK! *

*THE SHARK WERE UNWITTINGLY CREATED BY THE FORTY FATHOMS FREEDOM FIGHTERS WHEN THEY LAUNCHED A SPACESHIP FULL OF THEIR HYDROTECHNOLOGY DURING THE WAR OF THE WORLD, BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY-- ONE THAT YOU'RE WELCOME TO WRITE TO US AT SONIC GRAMS AND REQUEST--FREDITOR FREMERITUS.

AFTER THEIR FEEDING FRENZY OF GENOCIDE WAS COMPLETE, ZEE SHARK LEFT. LITTLE DID THEY KNOW ZAT ONE MEMBER OF EACH PLANET HAD SURVIVED THEIR CAMPAIGN OF TERROR!



THE MYSTERIOUS AND DOWNRIGHT UNFRIENDLY HAWKHAWK SCOUTED AND ORGANIZED US. WE FORMED A TEAM, PLEDGING TO DEFEND ANYONE ANYWHERE AGAINST EVIL AGGRESSION. WE CALL OURSELVES THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF THE GALAXY!



HOLY
BUCKETS!
IT'S
HIM!

SOAPS!
SO THE
LEGENDS ARE
TRUE?

INDEED,
SALETA, THE
ULTIMATE
DISASTER IS
UPON US...

BEHOLD! IT IS
SILVER SNIVELY! HE IS
HERALD TO THE GREATEST
MENACE IN THE UNIVERSE
AND WHOSE ARRIVAL HERE
IS NOW A FORGONE
CONCLUSION...

OH, UNKIND FATE!
SILVER SNIVELY'S MASTER,
ROBOLACTUS, THE PLANET
GLUTTON IS COMING --- AND
HE HUNGERS!

TO BE CONTINUED...



DOWNONDA FREEDOM FIGHTERS

IN MYTH TAKEN IDENTITY?

PART ONE

IT LOOKS LIKE
WE WON'T BE REPLACING
WOMBAT STU ANYTIME
SOON. *

AGREED. EVEN THOUGH
THERE'S TROUBLE BREWING HERE
IN DOWNONDA, I SAY WE LEAVE THE
TEAM AT ITS CURRENT MEMBERSHIP,
FOUR. ANY OBJECTIONS?

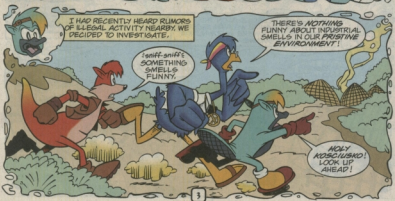
YAWN!
NO.

MAN, IT'S
NOT LIKE THE
OLD DAYS WHEN WE
FIRST FORMED THIS
GROUP.

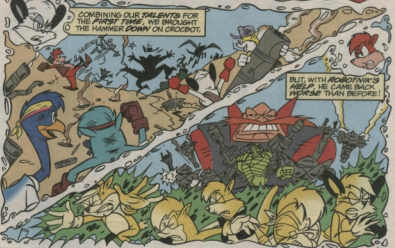
*WOMBAT STU WAS RECRUITED BY GEOFFREY ST. JOHN
IN SONIC #63 AND IS NOW A MEMBER OF KING ACORN'S
SECRET SERVICE -- JPD, EDITOR EIMERITU'S.

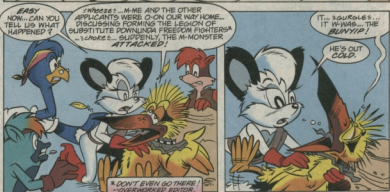
MICHAEL GALLAGHER-WRITER DAVE MANAK-PENCILLER
HARVO-INKER VICKIE WILLIAMS-LETTERER FRANK GAGLIARDO-COLORIST
JUSTIN GABRIEL-EDITOR/ART DIRECTOR

IT SURE ISN'T, GURU. I
REMEMBER HOW IT ALL
BEGAN. BACK THEN, I WAS
AN IDEALISTIC YOUNG
WALLABY, DETERMINED TO
DISCOVER MY DESTINY.
I LEFT HOME AND WENT ON
A WALKABOUT... OR IN MY
CASE, A "HOPABOUT!"







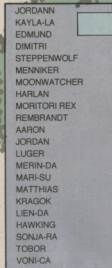


FOR SOME TIME
NOW, EVERYONE'S BEEN
ASKING JUST WHO'S
RELATED TO WHOM IN MY
FAMILY, SO I PUT TOGETHER
THIS *SCORECARD* FOR ALL
YOU READERS TO KEEP
TRACK WITH.

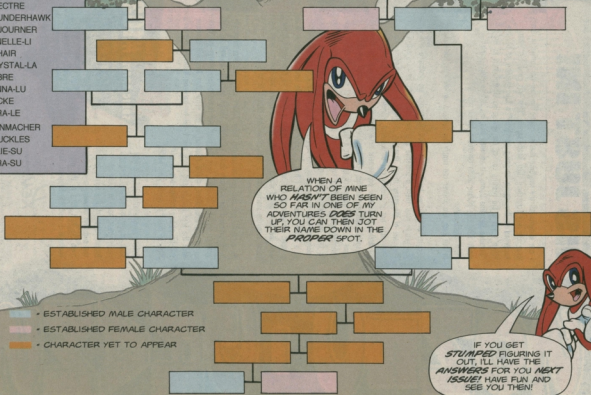
THOSE OF YOU WHO'VE BEEN PAYING ATTENTION SHOULD KNOW WHICH NAME FROM THE COLUMN ON THE LEFT GOES WITH WHICH BOX ON THE TREE.



BUT I'LL BE A
SPORT ABOUT IT AND
TELL YOU THE **YELLOW
BOXES** ARE FOR
CHARACTERS YET TO
BE SHOWN OR
MENTIONED.



SPECTRE
THUNDERHAWK
SOJOURNER
JANELLE-LI
ATHAIR
CRYSTAL-LA
SABRE
JENNA-LU
LOCKE
LARA-LE
WYNNMACHER
KNUCKLES
JULIE-SU
LARA-SU



WHEN A
RELATION OF MINE
WHO *HASN'T* BEEN SEEN
SO FAR IN ONE OF MY
ADVENTURES *DOES* TURN
UP, YOU CAN THEN JOT
THEIR NAME DOWN IN THE
PROPER SPOT.

IF YOU GET
STUMPED FIGURING IT
OUT, I'LL HAVE THE
ANSWERS FOR YOU *NEXT*
ISSUE! HAVE FUN AND
SEE YOU THEN!

SEARGING! NOZ

THIS JUST IN!

I can imagine all the longtime readers having finished the stories in this issue are now scratching their heads saying, "That was good, but what happened to the regular on-going storylines?" A fair question, to be sure. When I was a kid reading comics, the editor would explain it as the "Dreaded Deadline Doom". It sounded bad, but it also didn't explain much. That one phrase alone covered a lot of sins.

In this case, the answer can simply be summed up like this: Life happens.

Because of the time lag between when the stories are produced and when you get to read them, if someone gets sick, or moves, or gets married, or does one of the many things that can interrupt a work schedule, more often than not, it usually can be handled without causing disruption in the Archie production department or any of the readers noticing. However, at some point earlier this year, I required medical attention beyond what is usually necessary to treat a flu or an upset stomach, and it was definitely going to affect my workload, particularly on the Knuckles stories. At that point, when I informed editor Justin Gabrie of the steps I was taking to keep things going, he suggested that I take a break and work at a slower pace until I had a chance to recover. We both looked at it as a good thing in that it would allow Justin a chance to experiment a bit with the book and I would have the time to figure out how to work ideas into the stories that I hadn't had the chance to so far.

As a result, you now get to see this nifty 2-part story that was originally being planned for a future issue of SONIC SUPER SPECIAL, as well as other goodies we have in store over the next two issues before things get back to normal with SONIC #106. (Normal in the sense that Karl will continue with the lead feature and Dawn and I will be back on Knuckles, but we'll still be pulling rabbits out of our hats to make it worth your while.)

Before anyone asks, yes, I'm now back to my normal self, feeling really great, hard at work on future issues of this series, and in the midst of planning a relocation from the east coast to the west coast. As I said, life happens. Take Care.

KEN

Send letters to:
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Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited.

Thanks for understanding!



NEXT ISSUE: What else would you expect but the stunning conclusion to this issue's saga (still written by Mike Gallagher)? Because Jim Valentino's schedule didn't allow for him to finish things up, and I was on the road to recovery, Dawn Dez and I stepped in to handle the art. Plus, Mike G. and Dave Marak return with more of the Downunda Freedom Fighters, as well as more fun feature pages. Where else could you find this much fun and excitement, eh?

SPECIAL NOTE: Just when we thought everyone received their proper acknowledgments, we finally received our copies of *SONIC #100*, and somehow two glaring omissions happened between the time we sent our copy to press and when the book was printed. Much to our embarrassment, artist Scott Shaw, letters page designer Joe Pepitone and Herculio Ace somehow fell off the list for that we're truly sorry. We hope this makes up for it, and promise to get you guys in the next time we do this.

AND NOW, IT'S TIME TO CHECK THIS MONTH'S MAIL:

Dear Sonic Team,

According to the latest issue of *Wizard* ("The Comics Magazine"—#119, August 2001), Mina might not be a major player in Sonic's romantic life in the future. On page 85 in the Datebook (news/release Calendar) section, an SA-style pic of Sonic is listed in the square Saturday, July 7th, accompanied by the caption: "Sonic the Hedgehog #100 (Archiv Comics). Sonic and Princess Sally reunite. www.archivcomics.com".

Needless to say, I was surprised. Not only by the news, but the fact that I can count

with the fingers on one hand the number of times that *Wizard* has printed "anything" regarding the Sonic comic. In fact, the first thing I did when I bought my first issue of *Wizard* was to look for Ken Penders' and Pat Spaziante's names in the Top 10 Winners/Winners and Greater Index sections. I've never seen them listed, but at least the Sonic comics ARE listed in the monthly Price Guide! If the info printed was true, maybe we can expect Archiv to take more fan suggestions to heart in the future (since it was likely the fan reaction to Mina that prompted Sonic and Sally's [hopeful] future unification)...

MIKEON-LINE

Unfortunately, Mike, *WIZARD* has yet to really acknowledge the contributions the *SONIC* series has made to the comics industry in general, or that its popularity exceeds that of most books they feature, but if enough of the readers write and let them know, maybe they'll get a clue, you think? As for the Mina-Sonic-Sally triangle, I would hate to say that's over and done with, as Karl may or may not have a surprise in store in some upcoming adventure.

Dear Justin,

Alright, alright. So I couldn't stay away. Too many memories. *SONIC #100* starts off with the core Freedom Fighters striking a pose with the covers of the past 99 regular series issues in the background. Not as flashy as *SW35*'s silver or *SW50*'s gold borders, but still nifty.

Starting with the Sonic story, Ron Lim does a decent job this time around. His portrayal of Chaddmund's demise on page 1, the moment of silence for Sally on page 7, and the down-right creepy end of Maza Morgan on page 17 are all excellent bits. You can see bits and pieces of Fry and Spaz (more of the former) here and there throughout the story. Sally looks odd for the entire story (more rhapsodic than ground squirrel) and Rotor's head is just plain wrong. But all things considered, Mr. Lim got the job done looking good, and best of all, it conveyed the sense of the story very well. As someone who was critical of Ron Lim in the past, that's high praise.

As for the story, I must be honest. I was fairly dreading #100. Boy was I happily surprised. I found myself getting excited as the story unfolded. I wanted to know what was going to happen to whom, and I was totally taken off-guard when Sally FWAASHED Rotor. The dialogue tripped a little here and there, but all-in-all, it took me back to the glory days. This issue was a far cry better than recent months, especially with a number of plot lines tied up.

Moving along to the Knuckles segment, Mr. Penders does a decent job throughout the book. There is no particular rise or drop in quality. To be honest, I haven't been his biggest fan when it comes to Furry art. But he can draw humans far better than I, so I have no room to talk. Considering how he was first drawn, Mecha-Dimitri is on-model and with enough insane detail to satisfy me. The only quibbles I really have are Green-Knuckles' bony knees, Tobor's eyes on page 8, and Kommissar's proportions on page 3. I don't know what bugs me about her on page 3, she

just does. Regardless of those few points, the quality is consistent and it gets the story across.

This chapter is a big turning point in the life of our favorite Guardian, and it's done in a quick, compact, neat little story. I came away from this feeling like something had been accomplished. The only thing that really bugged me was Green-Knuckles and Julie-Su's hug on page 5. They're on the bridge of the enemy craft. Kommissar has already made it quite clear she has an itchy trigger-finger and her sights set on her half-sister. Mecha-Dimitri is obviously using the ex-Dier to play Green-Knuckles like a harp, and yet they're allowed to hug and exchange terms of endearment. I just can't see it that way. Then again, with Mecha-Dimitri wanting to play Green-Knuckles to his favor, maybe showing him with gifts (Su, the FI-inhabitants) was his plan all along. I don't know. I just don't know. In any event, I'll be checking out the next issue.

IAN POTTO

I had to condense your letter for reasons of space, Ian, but I trust the salient points came through. You were far from alone in your praise of *SONIC #100*, as the next writer will testify.

Dear Sonic-gram,

THE COVER: The colors could use a bit of lightening, especially on our friend Antoine there. Bonnie looks, in one word, awesome, as does our two-tailed kawaii heroine, Tails. Sally's hand looks more like a balloon with pencils stuck out from it, and Sonic looks like the patented Spaz-cool cg Sonic. The background is a grayscale tiled version of past issues. You can see the *SONIC #25* cover in the center. Look on it and see how much Spaz has changed. **RATING:** 95

SONIC STORY: It's set up as I expected it to be. It's reminiscent of the set-up in *SONIC #99*—it's filled with scenes that cut to different people. It makes it rather hard to figure out what happened to each person... er, furry/overlander. There's lots of cleaning up. Rotor and Arachnis are dead; the Rebbies are back, but they'll be along the sidelines. Maza is a robot, presumably, and the sword is back. It took, basically, a year to get it back. This arc will be known as the "Sword of Aconia" arc, lasting from *SONIC #88*–*SONIC #100*. Everyone in this issue served a good purpose. It exceeded my expectations. **RATING:** an easy 90

SONIC & Ron Lim: Ron Lim has a little more emotion. Maza looks scared throughout the story, as he should, but Sonic et al. ran emotionless through the pseudo-death sequence. Robotnik looked sadistic when he was supposed to, surprised on page 11, and Sally looked righty ticked off at Sonic throughout the whole story. Ron Lim's art is certainly better. **RATING:** 88

KNUCKLES STORY: It's a turning point. It's paced to all of its ability, actually, and Knuckles turns into the official ULTIMATE VILLAIN, Tobor and Kraggic die. There isn't much more to it, actually. I liked this story. **RATING:** 90

KNUCKLES ART: It looks identical to last issue's. The unnecessary Photoshop blur kills Tobor and Kraggic in mid-air, however. **RATING:** 85

BUNE

Cover illustration by Patrick Spaziante and Nelson Ribeiro with colors and separations by Josh D. Ray. Edit page layout & design by JosepP.

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